

sold in this country were sold during the Civil War for the benefit of relief funds for the sick soldiers. Today the pendulum has indeed swung in the other direction, and the seals are now used for soldiers on another fighting line. All the money raised will be spent in California, after the expenses for printing and advertising are paid to the Red Cross.

### TRACHOMA.

I am enclosing a notice which we are this day mailing to the chiefs of the various eye clinics in San Francisco.

Unquestionably there are many physicians practicing in San Francisco who are not aware of the fact that trachoma is one of the reportable diseases. Its importance to the community at large is so great that I can not help but ask your assistance in publishing through the "State Journal" the substance of the enclosed notice and asking the co-operation of all physicians in general practice or engaged in the specialty to report all suspicious as well as verified cases of trachoma to the Board of Health of their respective locality.

California, in spite of its large foreign population, has been comparatively free, so far as children of a school age are concerned, but any negligence on the part of the authorities or physicians will result in a spread of this affliction to at this time will be a procedure of great difficulty within a few years' time.

Thanking you for your co-operation, I am,

Respectfully,  
WILLIAM C. HASSLER.  
Health Officer.

### JAPANESE CAREFUL TO REGISTER ALL BIRTHS.

The registration of births seems to be of more interest to Japanese in California than to the white population, for during the year 1914, in proportion to population, three Japanese births were registered with the California State Board of Health to every white birth. Japanese associations scattered throughout California pay close attention to birth registration, in order that all Japanese children born in California may establish their legal status as American citizens.

It is probable that not more than ninety per cent of white births are registered with the California State Board of Health in accordance with the law. While it is true that many births attended by midwives are not reported, it is probable that the ten per cent of births which are unrecorded are due in a large measure to carelessness and neglect upon the part of physicians. Foreign born parents are generally particular to have the births of their children registered.

The distribution of many fortunes and many a question of property rights have rested solely upon the existence of a birth certificate, yet American citizens are exceedingly careless in attending to this important matter. The registration of a child's birth is its first birthright.

Under the new registration law, a birth certificate must be filed within thirty-six hours after the date of birth. The health officer in cities having a freeholders charter is local registrar, with whom such birth certificates should be filed. The city clerk is the proper official for registration in other cities and incorporated towns, and the county recorder is the registrar for the remainder of each county.

During the year 1914 there were 35,513 children born of white parents in California and 2,874 Japanese children were born in the state during the same year, according to the records of the California State Board of Health.

### BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS.

Los Angeles, Cal., Nov. 16, 1915.

Editor of the California State Journal of Medicine,  
San Francisco, Cal.

Dear Sir:

In the September number of the Journal, there appeared several fairly long editorials concerning the Board of Medical Examiners of the State of California and relating to the Osteopaths. The spirit of these articles not only tended to reflect on the integrity and loyalty of the Board in supporting the best interests of the medical profession in California, but also tended to create an impression that the members of the board were false to their obligations in their administration of medical regulation in the state.

It is to be regretted that the author of these editorials did not avail himself of the opportunity of learning the facts involved, which he could easily have done by a visit to the office of the secretary of the board, situated in the same building as his own, and making a careful study of the matter at issue.

A historical review of the essentials of the several medical laws of California will help to a better understanding of the subject under discussion. Permit me to relate that prior to August 1, 1901, any person holding a diploma from a reputable medical college could obtain a license in California by the registration of the diploma. After the above date until 1907, in order to obtain a physician and surgeon's license, one must have had a degree of M. D., a diploma from a medical college meeting the requirements of the Association of American Medical Colleges for that year, and also pass a written examination before the Board of Medical Examiners. During this period, to obtain an Osteopathic license, the applicant must have been a graduate of an Osteopathic college and must have met the requirements of the Osteopathic Board of Examiners, a separate board. This law (of 1901) specifically prohibited the holder of an Osteopathic certificate from using drugs or practicing major surgery.

The legislature of 1907 repealed all of the existing Medical Practice Acts, and passed a law creating a single composite Board of Medical Examiners for all classes of applicants, and so from 1907 to 1913, all applicants took the same examination in the basic subjects of anatomy, histology, pathology, chemistry, physiology, hygiene, obstetrics, gynecology, bacteriology, and diagnosis. You will note that none were examined in treatment, either medical or surgical, nor in materia medica or therapeutics. There was this difference, however, in the kinds of certificates issued. Applicants having an M. D. degree, and meeting with the requirements of the Association of American Medical Colleges, were granted an unlimited certificate, while the applicants who were graduates of the Osteopathic colleges were granted an Osteopathic certificate.

The legislature of 1913 repealed the foregoing law, and passed the "Avey Bill," which provided, as before, for a single conjoint board, and for the issuing of three classes of certificates, namely: 1, Reciprocity; 2, Physician and Surgeon's, and 3, Drugless Practitioner's certificate. It also provided that certain standards must be met by colleges as to pre-medical requirements, hours of teaching, etc., and that the colleges must be approved by the California State Board, either as a physician and surgeon's college, or as a drugless college.

In June, 1914, the board adopted the "Dr. Alderson Report," which was the majority report of the board's college committee. This report of Dr. Alderson's was a strong and valuable one, and was responsible more than any other measure for